

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

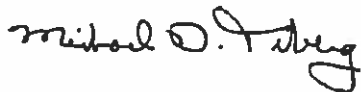
Re: MPA Letter of Support for House Bill (HB) 4437

Dear Members of the Health Policy Committee:

I would like to indicate my support for **HB 4437**, which will allow for the substitution of lower-cost interchangeable biologic products at the point of sale and improve overall access to biosimilar medications. This is similar to how pharmacists today are able to substitute lower-cost generic pharmaceuticals at the point of sale. Just like traditional brand and generic drugs, there are no clinically meaningful differences between the approved biosimilar product and the reference biologic product in terms of their safety, purity and potency. Pharmacists are the medication experts and should be allowed to make the substitution of these interchangeable biologics.

Any additional administrative hurdles in the substitution and dispensing of interchangeable biologic products will only increase the burden on prescribers and dispensers, diminish consumer and provider confidence in these new products, and ultimately contribute to rising health care costs due to lost efficiency on the part of providers. HB 4437 is consistent with federal laws that already govern the dispensing of these agents, and fosters an environment in which providers can easily be in compliance with state and federal regulations. I strongly urge your support and approval of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Tiberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Tiberg" clearly distinguishable.

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